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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5895th meeting of the Security Council, held on 20 May 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Post-conflict peacebuilding", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and emphasises the critical importance of post-conflict peacebuilding in laying the foundation for sustainable peace and development after the scourge of war.

"The Security Council recognises that supporting states to recover from conflict and build sustainable peace is a major challenge facing the international community, and that an effective response requires political, security, humanitarian and development activities to be integrated and coherent, including in the first phase of integrated mission planning.

"The Security Council emphasises the importance of national ownership and the primary responsibility of national authorities emerging from conflict for peacebuilding and sustainable development, expresses its intention to support those efforts and encourages other actors to do the same.

"The Security Council recalls its resolution 1645 (2005) and welcomes the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in advising on the coordination of international peacebuilding activities and resources, and expresses its support for enhancing the role of the Peacebuilding Commission, Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund.

"The Security Council recognises that, in particular in the immediate aftermath of conflict, affected countries have urgent needs including, but not limited to, the re-establishment of the institutions of Government, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of armed forces, security sector reform, transitional justice, reconciliation, re-establishing the rule of law and respect for human rights and economic revitalisation. The Security Council underlines that civilian expertise in post-conflict peacebuilding is essential in helping to meet these needs.

"The Security Council encourages efforts to address the urgent need for rapidly deployable civilian expertise and stresses that the critical role for such expertise is working in co-operation with national authorities to strengthen national capacities.

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"The Security Council highlights the need for the United Nations to play a leading role in the field in co-ordinating international efforts in post-conflict situations. The Security Council stresses that coordination between national authorities and others involved in longer-term reconstruction and development, including organs of the UN system in accordance with their respective mandates, the international financial institutions, as well as with civil society and the business sector, is vital for the success of UN and international engagement in post-conflict situations.

"The Security Council stresses the need to ensure that finance is available from the outset for recovery and peacebuilding activities to meet immediate needs, and to lay a solid foundation for longer-term reconstruction and development.

"The Security Council reaffirms the role of regional organisations in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and the need to strengthen the capacity of regional organisations in helping countries recover from conflict.

"The Security Council encourages the Secretary-General, the Peacebuilding Commission, international and regional organisations and Member States to consider how to support national efforts in affected countries to secure a sustainable peace more rapidly and effectively, including in the areas of coordination, civilian deployment capabilities and financing. The Security Council invites the Secretary-General to provide advice within twelve months to the relevant UN organs on how best to take forward these issues within the United Nations system and, taking into consideration the views of the Peacebuilding Commission, how to co-ordinate peacebuilding activities and encourage the mobilisation and most effective use of resources for urgent peacebuilding needs."

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Security Council

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22 May 2008

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5896th meeting of the Security Council, held on 22 May 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council congratulates the leaders and people of Lebanon and welcomes and strongly supports the agreement reached in Doha on May 21 under the auspices of the Arab League, which constitutes an essential step towards the resolution of the current crisis, the return to the normal functioning of Lebanese democratic institutions, and the complete restoration of Lebanon's unity and stability.

"The Security Council commends the efforts of the Arab League, in particular of the committee of Foreign Ministers, under the leadership of the Emir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor Al-Thani, and Secretary-General Amr Moussa, in helping Lebanese leaders reach an agreement.

"The Security Council welcomes the agreement to elect a President of the Republic, to establish a national unity cabinet and to address Lebanon's electoral law, in accordance with the Arab League Initiative, as well as the decision to continue the national dialogue on ways to reinforce the authority of the state over all its territory, in such a way to guarantee the sovereignty and the safety of the state and the people of Lebanon. It welcomes the agreement to ban the use of weapons and violence as a means to settle disputes, irrespective of their nature and under any circumstances.

"The Security Council calls for the implementation of this agreement in its entirety, in accordance with the Arab League initiative, and in conformity with the Taef agreement and all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and statements of its President on the situation in Lebanon.

"The Security Council reaffirms its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty, unity, and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized borders and under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory."

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Security Council

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27 May 2008

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5898th meeting of the Security Council, held on 27 May 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Protection of civilians in armed conflict", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the full and effective implementation of its resolutions on the protection of civilians in armed conflict and recalls previous statements on the issue made by its President.

"The Security Council remains committed to addressing the impact of armed conflict on civilians. The Council expresses its deepest concern that civilians continue to account for the majority of victims of acts of violence committed by parties to armed conflicts, including as a result of deliberate targeting, indiscriminate and excessive use of force and of sexual and gender based violence. The Security Council condemns all violations of international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law committed against civilians in situations of armed conflict. The Council demands that all relevant parties immediately put an end to such practices. The Council reaffirms in this regard that parties to armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of affected civilians, in particular giving attention to the specific needs of women and children.

"The Security Council re-emphasises the responsibility of states to comply with their relevant obligations to end impunity and to prosecute those responsible for war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity and serious violations of international humanitarian law.

"The Security Council underlines the importance of safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel to provide assistance to civilians in armed conflict in accordance with international law, and stresses the importance, within the framework of humanitarian assistance, of upholding and respecting the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

"The Security Council recognizes the increasingly valuable role that regional organisations and other intergovernmental institutions play in the protection of civilians, and encourages the Secretary-General and the heads of

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regional and other intergovernmental organisations to continue their efforts to strengthen their partnership in this regard.

"The Security Council takes note of the Secretary-General's report of 28 October 2007 (S/2007/643) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and requests the Secretary-General to submit his next report on this subject by May 2009. The Security Council invites the Secretary-General to provide an update in that report on the implementation of protection mandates in United Nations missions as mandated by the Security Council. The Council encourages the Secretary-General to continue to include such updates on the protection of civilians in his regular reporting on United Nations missions."

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5903rd meeting of the Security Council, held on 2 June 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist attack that occurred outside the Danish Embassy in Islamabad on 2 June 2008, causing numerous deaths, injuries and damage to nearby buildings, including a building housing the United Nations Development Programme. It expresses its deep sympathy and condolences to the victims of this heinous act of terrorism and to their families, and to the people and governments of Pakistan and Denmark.

"The Security Council underlines the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism to justice, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and resolution 1373 (2001) and consistent with resolution 1624 (2005), to cooperate actively with the Pakistani authorities in this regard.

"The Security Council reaffirms that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

"The Security Council further reaffirms the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. The Council reminds States that they must ensure any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

"The Security Council reiterates its determination to combat all forms of terrorism, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations."

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